

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY

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RIDAY.....JUNE 11, 1897.

NO ASSESSMENT.

The assessment feature of the Richmond primary-election plan is being used by outsiders to the injury of our fair city. Precious little credit is given us for allowing minority representation. That act generosity (which has been imitated by no other city in the South) has been moved, while harsh things have been said about our selfish and "un-Democratic" method of levying our local expenses upon the candidates for Governor.

As we have said before, we believe this dangerous feature of the Richmond plan was inconsiderately adopted. We feel sure that if the subject had been fully discussed in the public prints and in the committee, some other method of raising the money would have been devised. The sum needed is but \$600, and this should be raised in Richmond. We ought not to go to Hampton, or to Radford, or to any other town to raise money to pay the cost of electing Richmond's delegation. The idea is radically wrong. All other cities bear the cost of electing their own delegations to the Roanoke convention, and why should not we bear the cost of electing ours?

Our City Democratic Committee ought to meet at once and devise some other method of raising the required amount of money. A primary we must have, of course. Ward meetings would not satisfy our people, and, therefore, are not to be thought of; but the money for the primary should and can be raised in Richmond. There ought to be no assessing of candidates. Instead of that, let the City Committee send out a committee of three or five of its most prominent and influential members to solicit contributions from our people.

The assessment feature of our primary plan has long been in vogue, and is right and proper enough when a primary is held to decide a contest between Richmonders. Then no sound objection can be urged against it. Usage will bind our party in Richmond, but it cannot be held to bind Democrats outside of Richmond.

Besides, our pride is humbled at the thought of Richmond's going beyond its corporate limits for party purposes! Our practice has been the reverse of this. Our city has given thousands and tens of thousands of dollars to be spent by the Democratic party outside of Richmond.

Furthermore, Richmond is not asked by the Democratic State Committee to "vote for candidates for Governor." Not at all. What we are asked to do is to "elect 73 delegates" to represent our city in the Roanoke convention to nominate a candidate for Governor, a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor, and a candidate for Attorney-General! That our committee has determined to have a direct vote upon the candidates for Governor is an arrangement of our own making. No, the assessment feature of the plan won't do. Richmond needs no outside help, and therefore ought to be unwilling to ask it.

In short, this is a matter which should touch our public spirit and civic pride, and, therefore, should arouse the interest of every loyal citizen of Richmond.

The New York Times states that Frances E. Conant, who was a resident of New York, died recently while at Malden, Mass., visiting Clarence N. Reynolds, who was a relative, though not a next of kin, and who, when a child, had lived with her for some years in the family of her mother. Shortly before her death Miss Conant gave Sarah Reynolds, wife of Clarence, a bunch of keys, including the key of her trunk and of a tin box therewith. It is stated that she wanted her and her husband "to have everything." Mrs. Reynolds thereupon opened the trunk and took therefrom the tin box, containing

a bank-book, and retained it until after the decedent's death. The decedent's nearest relative, and only next of kin, was an aunt, Eliza R. Brewer, residing at Dallas, Tex. In an action by Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds against Louis H. Reynolds, as administrator, and Eliza R. Brewer, as administratrix, to recover money on deposit in the Albany Savings Bank represented by the bank-book, Justice Chase, in the Albany trial term of the Supreme Court, gave judgment for the plaintiffs. He held that a valid gift causa mortis had been made out for the deposit represented by the book; that the delivery of the bank-book, with the intention of transferring title to the deposit represented by such book, was sufficient to constitute a valid gift.

ABOUT HYDROPHOBIA.

The Petersburg Index-Appeal has the following on the subject of mad-dogs:

"The season of warm weather is at hand, and the newspapers will soon contain sensational accounts of hydrophobia in man and beast. The enterprising policeman will be permitted active with club and pistol to destroy dogs that may be overcome with heat and want of water, and to manufacture stories of hydrophobia, to the consternation of the ignorant and timid. Not a summer passes that several so-called mad-dogs are not killed in this city and vicinity, and yet it is venture to assert that there has not been an authenticated case of hydrophobia in Petersburg, or in Virginia, during the last half-century, if ever at any time. The popular imagination associated hydrophobia with hot weather and with certain well-defined symptoms, such as snapping, snarling, barking, frothing at the mouth, and an uncontrollable aversion to water, whereas persons who have carefully studied the subject say that hydrophobia is a disease peculiar to cold climates; that its victims are not smart and squalid, nor do they bark and froth at the mouth or have spasms at the sight of water. A dog or a person who is the victim of the imagination, may do all these things, and yet be dangerous neither to himself nor to others. It is to be hoped that the police will investigate this matter, and be sure that they are making no mistake when they kill, perhaps, valuable dogs for no greater offence than being overcome by the heat of the season."

We think the Index-Appeal errs in stating that hydrophobia is a disease peculiar to cold climates. It is well known and much dredged in Italy and Greece, and has been from the days of the classic writers. The main features of the disease are similar in the lower animals and in men, but the dread of water appears only to affect the latter. So, too, a snapping movement of the patient's jaws, as if he were about to bite, may often be noticed, "but these are in reality a manifestation of the spasmodic action which affects the muscles generally." So, too, our authority (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*) says: "The patient suffers from thirst, and desires eagerly to drink, but on making the effort is seized with a most violent suffocative paroxysm, produced by spasms of the muscles of swallowing and breathing," &c., &c.

As we have several times stated, Dr. Beale, who had practiced medicine in Richmond for half a century, and who died some years ago, was wont to declare that he had never seen a case of hydrophobia in man, nor had he ever been able to find any other physician who had.

Since then, however, more than one Virginia physician has seen such cases, and if we remember aright, one of these, at the instance of Dr. W. W. Parker, wrote out a report of a case that he attended and submitted the report to the Virginia Medical Society, by whom it was published. We need scarcely say that the person bitten died. Later still there have been Virginia cases reported in the newspapers, where persons supposed to have been bitten by mad-dogs have died with all the symptoms of hydrophobia.

The public mind has been very disagreeably and lastingly impressed by the death within the past twelve months of four little boys of Baltimore, who were bitten by a St. Bernard dog. True, some attempt has been made to ascribe the death of these boys to the Pasteur treatment, to which they were subjected, but, so far as we have been able to judge, the attempt has failed.

Judging by the frequent calls here at Richmond for "the madstone," many snappish cures are going at large, and the people are very much afraid of them. Often, when a person is bitten by these vagabond dogs, the bitten person comes or is brought to Richmond in search of a madstone.

In Virginia, among the masses, the madstone is in higher repute than the Pasteur treatment, or any other treatment. In vain have physicians and editors asserted that the stone is valueless as a curative agent. Still, the people call for it, and we sometimes fear that before making use of it they are not careful enough to cleanse the stone. Certainly, if the stone is an absorbent, it may absorb from one wound and give out the poisonous matter to another wound.

Instead of killing dogs that are suspected of having hydrophobia, it would be much better to capture and chain them until expert authority could determine whether they are really victims of the disease or not. In most cases it would appear that the dogs are free from the disease, and to know this would be a great comfort to all who may have been bitten by them. But, alas! few persons are willing to undertake to capture a so-called "mad-dog." It is another case of belling or not belling the cat. So we guess that the old, old way of disposing of "mad-dogs" will be followed, e. g., most of the suspected dogs will be killed. Certainly, in cases of serious doubt, it would be better to kill the suspected dog than to give him the opportunity to do the mischief that the St. Bernard dog did in Baltimore.

A MYSTERY.

The United States Department of State and the newspaper men of the country are very much interested just now in the question how the New York Journal managed to "scop" the government and all of its contemporaries on Consul-General Lee's report covering the Ruiz case. It is said that General Lee's report was published before it was opened at the State Department. If so, the fault could not have been with that department. The secretary of the Calhoun-Lee Commission has thought it necessary to explain that he was in no wise responsible for the publication. And, for our part, we are sure that General Lee did not allow it to get out. The General is very experienced in matters of this sort, and while much beloved by newspaper men, he has a genius for keeping secrets.

Possibly the fault, or crime, is chargeable to some messenger or copyist. But, however that may be, the Journal has scored a great "heat" against its more or less esteemed contemporaries.

TURKEY AND THE POWERS.

The Sultan is represented as having his back up, and as having sworn by the beard of the Prophet that he will not give up Thessaly; and the Sheik-ul-Islam is said to have declared that territory once acquired by the sacrifice of Ottoman blood cannot, under Ottoman law, be surrendered. But the Sultan's oath and Ottoman law to the contrary notwithstanding, Thessaly will be given up if the Powers have so decreed.

At the same time, Abdul Hamid is likely to give the Powers a good deal of trouble before he surrenders. And for the trouble that is before them the Powers have none to thank but themselves. Had they, in the beginning of the Greco-Cretan affair, subordinated their jealousies to the obligations they were under to humanity and to civilization, and allowed Greece to consummate Cretan annexation, there would have been no Graeco-Turkish war, and the Sultan would have been his obedient and submissive servant.

By living with Turkey, however,

Munyon's Sympathy.

As Far Reaching and Boundless as Faith.

Mr. C. W. Hoffman, Elbowoods, N. D., says: "I am well acquainted with Strike Enemy, an Indian who knows here, and also among other tribes, and know that after many months of suffering, he has been permanently cured of rheumatism by Munyon's Homeopathic Rheumatism Cure. He had terrible pains in his legs, was unable to walk, and believed that death was only a short time away. He asked me to write to that white man in the mountains who made great cures from him, and say good-bye. Finally I got him a bottle of Munyon's Rheumatism Cure and gave it to him. After the second dose he smiled for the first time in months, and said that the medicine was helping him. It took two weeks to cure him. He has been relieved from all pain and now walks as well as ever. He asked me to write to that white man in the mountains who made great cures from him, and say good-bye. Finally I got him a bottle of Munyon's Homeopathic Rheumatism Cure and gave it to him. 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